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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/479 and Corr.1)*]

59/215. Humanitarian and special economic assistance to Serbia and Montenegro

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/96 F of 15 December 1999, 55/169 of 14 December 2000, 56/101 of 14 December 2001 and 57/148 of 16 December 2002,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in Serbia and Montenegro, in particular emergency assistance provided by the European Union and various countries,

Recognizing the role of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the stabilization and association process for the western Balkans in assisting Serbia and Montenegro in its efforts in further promoting democratic and economic reforms and in intensifying regional cooperation,

Recognizing also the need to ensure the effective and smooth transition from humanitarian to development efforts in Serbia and Montenegro, including with respect to the humanitarian and rehabilitation needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular the most vulnerable,

Aware of the weakness of the economy and basic services, which exacerbates further the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and which is coupled with limited basic social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Acknowledging that still a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons remain in Serbia and Montenegro and that assistance requirements will include local integration, whenever refugees and internally displaced persons are not willing to return to their places of origin,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in helping Serbia and Montenegro to achieve a successful transition from humanitarian assistance to development

assistance and in coordinating the efforts of the international community in that regard,

Acknowledging the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro in the implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia and Montenegro, as well as international support for the development of a Roma integration and empowerment strategy and poverty reduction strategies in Serbia and Montenegro and the adoption of a poverty reduction strategy paper,

Recognizing a continued decrease in humanitarian assistance in 2004, in line with an understanding that, as stressed in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] the country was no longer in a humanitarian crisis situation but had moved towards stabilization and economic development,

Recognizing also the importance of the rule of law, good governance, a vibrant private sector, as well as effective social sectors, including education and health, to achieve sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Calls upon* all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to continue to provide assistance to alleviate the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, and to assist financially and otherwise in seeking durable solutions for a safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin, or for settlement at their place of refuge for those who want to integrate locally, in cooperation with the local authorities, with a successive transition to development projects aimed at durable solutions to those questions;

2. *Encourages* the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro in its efforts to ensure a smooth transition from relief to long-term development, and calls upon all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to offer support for those efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Serbia and Montenegro as a strategic document for the operational activities of the United Nations system in Serbia and Montenegro and as a basis for the entire development assistance programme in the period 2005–2009 and the adoption of the United Nations Development Programme country programme outline for Serbia and Montenegro for the period 2005–2009 and the United Nations Children's Fund country programme document for Serbia and Montenegro for the period 2005–2009, and calls upon all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to support their implementation;

4. *Recognizes* that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lies with the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro, while bearing in mind the important role played by the international community;

[1] A/59/293.

5. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of Serbia and Montenegro and encourages it to cooperate further with the United Nations system as well as development and humanitarian organizations to address the needs of the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges the relevant authorities and the international community to support and stimulate development assistance for the implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, national strategies for poverty reduction and other programmes that will ensure that the needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons in Serbia and Montenegro are met and to pursue durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, stresses the need to create conditions that are conducive to their safe return, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of regional cooperation in the search for solutions to the plight of refugees;

6. *Urges* the relevant government authorities in Serbia and Montenegro to develop, with the assistance of the United Nations system, national policies for comprehensive durable solutions for internally displaced persons based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[2] and in that regard invites the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo to strengthen its efforts, within its mandate, in coordination with relevant government authorities in Serbia and Montenegro, for the establishment of the necessary conditions for the safe and sustainable return of internally displaced persons;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, as well as development agencies, to continue to mobilize the timely provision of international development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro, and welcomes efforts by Serbia and Montenegro to improve governance and institutional capabilities in order to use aid more effectively;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the increased donor coordination of assistance to Serbia and Montenegro, inter alia, through the mechanism of the United Nations resident coordinator system;

9. *Urges* development partners to assist in capacity-building, institution-building and local employment generation in their programmes and to train and employ local staff to the maximum extent possible, welcomes work by Serbia and Montenegro to create an enabling environment for its private sector, including the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises and to small and medium-sized enterprises and to their households, and encourages continued work on regulatory reform, transparency, accountability, good governance and the rule of law, all of which support sustainable development;

10. *Also urges* Serbia and Montenegro and its development partners to support and strengthen initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of social capital in areas such as health and education, emphasizing, inter alia, the development of capacity to improve the quality of and access to health care and education;

11. *Requests* the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assess needs, in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro, relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and interested States, with a view to ensuring an effective and smooth transition from relief to longer-term development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro, taking into

[2] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

account the work already carried out in this field and the need to avoid duplication and the overlapping of efforts;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the recommendation contained in his report,[1] to submit to it at its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a final report on the implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004